

ABAWD Exemptions



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How to Listen In

- This webinar will be held in “listen only” mode
- There are two ways to listen
 - Via Computer
 - Via Phone



How to Ask Questions

- Use the question box to ask your question any time during the presentation.
- At the end of the presentation, we will address as many questions as possible.
- We will follow-up on questions that we cannot get to during the allotted presentation time.

Note: This webinar will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all presentation materials will be provided after the presentation.

Upcoming Webinars

Date	Time	Topic
September 12th	10-11am	Satisfying the Work Requirement
October 10 th	10-11am	Counting Months
November 14 th	10-11am	Regaining Eligibility
December 12 th	10-11am	15 Percent Exemption Policy
January 9 th	10-11am	ABAWD Clock, Reporting and MEDS

Today's Agenda

- Review California's Implementation Timeline
- ABAWD Time Limit Review
- Effective Screening & Client Communication
- ABAWD Exemptions In-Depth
 - Definitions
 - Verification
 - Tracking
- County & Community Partner Takeaways
- Q&A

California ABAWD Implementation Timeline

ABAWD workgroups meet

Jan 1, 2017

Fixed statewide
clock begins

Sept 2017

ABAWD policy
handbook released

Oct 2017

Consortia begin
automation
planning

California ABAWD Implementation Timeline

Nov — Jan 2018

- Workgroups & trainings continue

Feb — March 2018

- Time limit waiver request submitted to FNS by CDSS

April-May 2018

- Counties receive final time limit waiver confirmation

California ABAWD Implementation Timeline

First 4 months of Time Limit Implementation in CA

June — Aug 2018

- Critical time for screening, notifying and engaging ABAWDs

Sept 1, 2018

- Statewide ABAWD time limit waiver expires – some counties required to implement
- Participation tracking begins

Dec 2018

First group of ABAWDs subject to the time limit potentially discontinued

Review: ABAWD Time Limit Rule

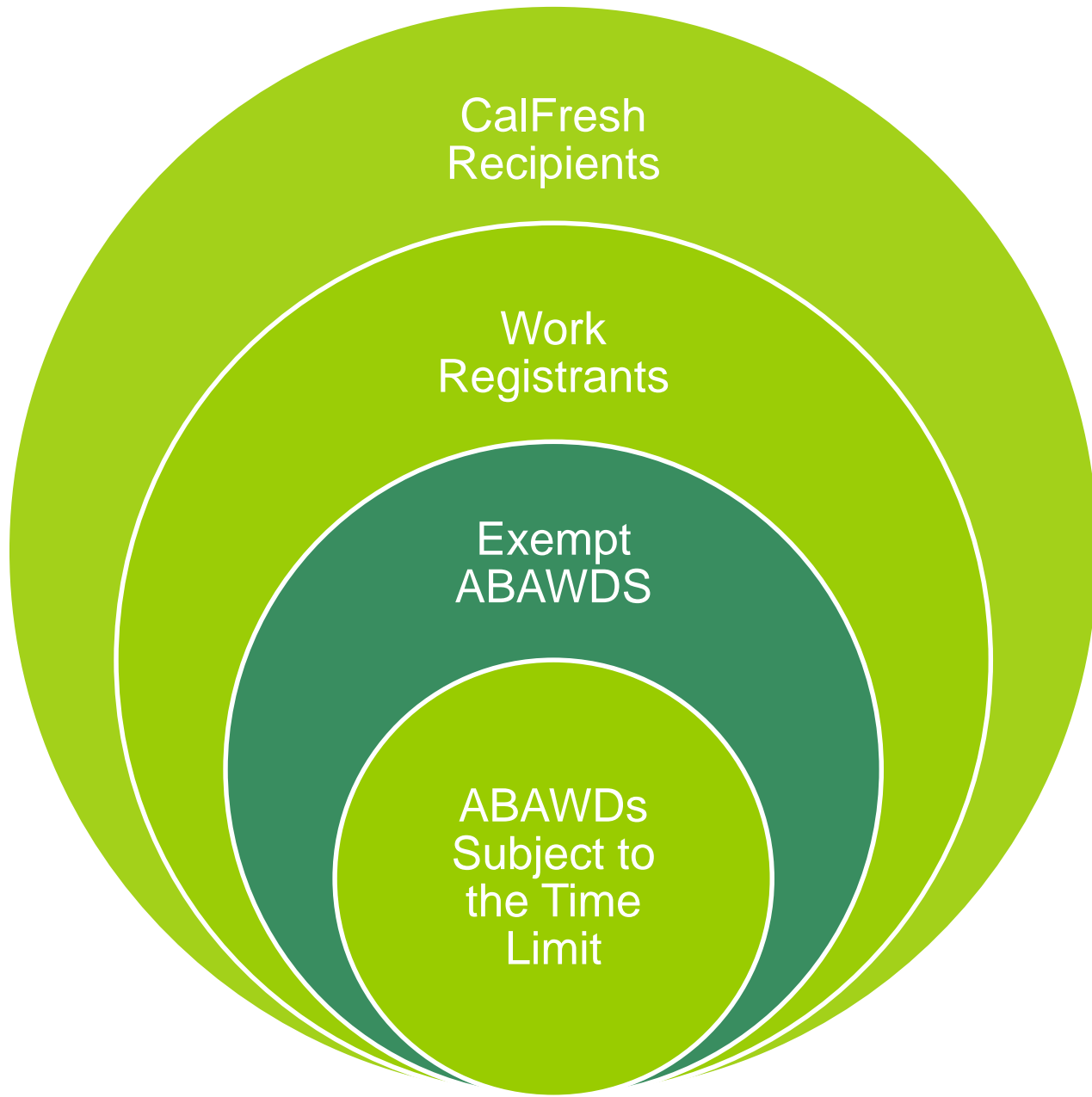
- ABAWD eligibility limited to 3 full months in a 36-month period while not fulfilling the work requirement or otherwise exempt.

Applies to individuals that:

- Are age 18 – 49
- Have no dependents
- Are able to work

Requires:

- ABAWDs to work or participate in a qualifying work activity for at least 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month (averaged monthly)



Screening for ABAWD Exemptions

Existing Caseload

- Advance of September 1, 2018
- Utilize information in the casefile
- Build screening into ongoing business process

New Applicants

- ABAWD Screening Tools
- Innovation - Specialized intake units, workers, etc..

Effective Screening

Client Communication

- Understanding the ABAWD time limit
- Paradigm shift
 - Communicate when things change and report as required.
- Frequent



Community Partners Help

- Raise awareness of the ABAWD rules
- Display posters and distribute flyers
- Communicate with other stakeholders
- Application assistance – specific to ABAWDs
- Assist in verifying exemptions
 - EX: helping to get a medical verification form signed
- Refer clients who need assistance to the CWD or other community partners

Scenario

- Post September 1, 2018
- Client applies for CalFresh benefits
 - 32 years old
 - Household of 1 – no dependents
- During the application process it is determined that he is an ABAWD
- But.... Is he subject to the time limit?
 - Let's explore

ABAWD Exemptions

- Many ABAWDs face significant barriers to employment.
 - Does this individual's circumstances hinder their ability to participate in work or work activities for 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month?
- Clients are exempt from the ABAWD time limit for any of the following reasons:

Reside in a CalFresh household with a member under age 18

- Household means part of the CalFresh household
 - Child can be an ineligible member of the CalFresh household for any reason
 - Child can be temporarily absent from the home (no longer than 30 days)
- The individual is:
 - Not required to be the parent of the child
 - Not required to be responsible for the child



Pregnancy

- Any stage
- Effective beginning the month of conception and applies until (and includes) the month of the child's birth

Verification:

Client statement sufficient



Exempt from CalFresh Work Registration



Verification:
Known to County

Physically or Mentally Unfit for Employment



Receiving Public or Private Disability Benefits

- Applied for or receiving
- Sources including but not limited to:
 - Veteran's disability benefits (any rating)
 - Workers compensation
 - SSI in a non-pay status (only for the months SSI benefits are not paid) or pending application for SSI
 - State-issued temporary or permanent disability benefits

Verification:

- Proof of receipt or pending application
- May be known to county

Obviously Unfit for Work

- Determined by the eligibility worker during the intake interview – either face to face or via telephone.
 - Examples include:
 - Observing that a person has a broken arm
 - Noting that a client is having trouble following the interview or is asking incoherent questions
 - Dental issues
 - Personal hygiene issues
 - Etc.



Medically Certified as Unfit for Work

- If the unfitness is not obvious, the CWD must secure medical certification of the unfitness.

Verification:

- CalFresh Request for Medical/Mental Health Verification form (under development)
- Written or verbal statement from a medical or mental health professional
 - Including: physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists, social workers, etc...



Chronic Homelessness

- Defined as lacking fixed and regular nighttime residence.
- An individual whose primary residence is:
 - A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations
 - A halfway house or similar institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
 - A temporary accommodation in the residence of another individual for no more than 90 days; or
 - A place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. a hallway, a bus station, a lobby or similar places).
- In addition
 - Coded as living in a homeless shelter or coded as receiving the homeless shelter deduction

Struggling with Drug or Alcohol Addiction

- Defined as, but not limited to, participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment/rehabilitation program
 - Do not have to be participating in a treatment program to qualify for this exemption

Verification: Statement from medical professional, verification of participation in a treatment program, client statement sufficient if no other source is available.

Escaping Domestic Violence

- Defined as an individual who is fleeing from any type of assaultive, coercive or battering behavior occurring within a domestic relationship

Verification: Statement from a medical or mental health professional, client statement sufficient if no other source is available

Final Thoughts on ABAWD Exemptions

- Verification is flexible
 - Detailed case narration is key
 - Always have the option to verify any information deemed questionable
- Temporary vs. Permanent
 - Typically granted for the length of the certification period
- Retroactive capability

Key Takeaways for Counties and Community Partners

- Start by Asking Questions:
 - How will counties and CBOs identify and individually assess ABAWDs for exemptions?
 - How can client facing materials best reflect the return of the ABAWD time limit?
 - What training needs do your staff have?
 - Who are potential partners?
 - What will be difficult about finding exempt individuals and how can we find a solution?



Key Takeaways for Counties and Community Partners

- Start Engaging ABAWDS:
 - Education
 - Work Opportunities
 - Community Partnerships



Questions

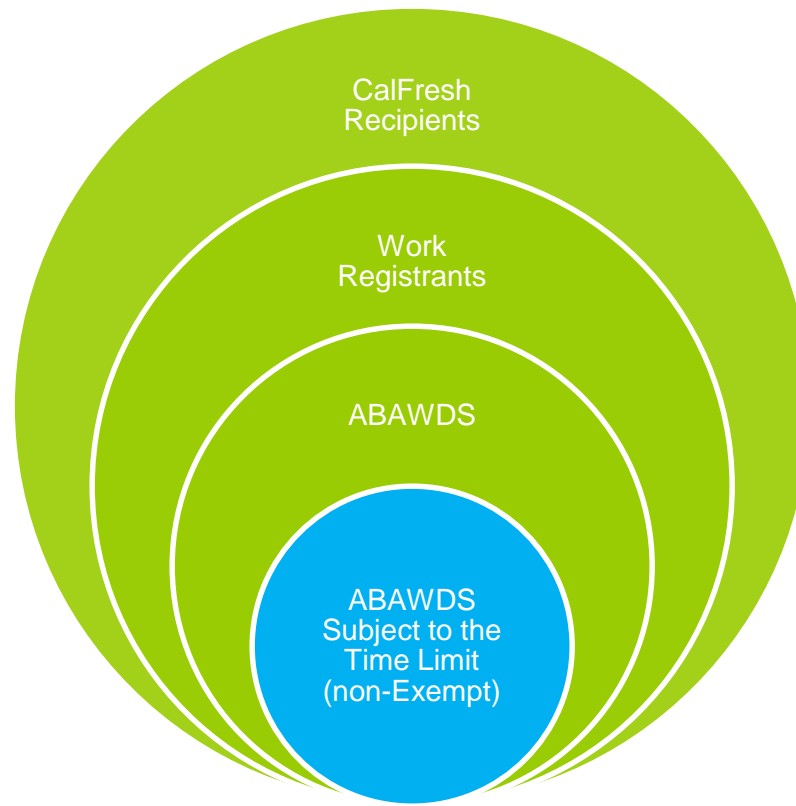


Next Up

September 12th

10-11am

Satisfying the Work Requirement



Resources

- CalFresh Work Registration
 - [ACIN I-01-13](#) – Policies and Procedures For CalFresh Work Registration
 - [MPP 63-407](#) – Work Registration Requirements
 - [7 CFR 273.7](#) – Work Provisions
- ABAWD Time Limit
 - [ACL 16-24](#) – CalFresh Summary of the ABAWD Time Limit
 - [MPP 63-410](#) – Work Requirements for ABAWDs
 - [7 CFR 273.24](#) – Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults
 - 7 CFR 273.24(c)(2)(ii) – unfit for work verification
 - [USDA FNS ABAWD Page](#)

Thank You!

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